

said floating collars having seal faces which extend parallel to said longitudinal axes of said respective termini, spaced apart from respective ones of said interior passages of said housing to define second seal glands therebetween;

30 second seal elements disposed in said second seal glands, extending around respective ones of said longitudinal axes of said respective termini, and sealingly engaging between respective ones of said seal faces and said interior passages when said termini are angularly displaced about said protuberances;

biasing means to energize said second seal elements;

35 continuous ceramic sleeves having interior bores which are of a slightly wider cross-section than said termini, providing clearance fits between said continuous ceramic sleeves and said termini over lengths which extend parallel to respective ones of said longitudinal axes of said termini; and

40 wherein mating ones of said termini fit within opposite ends of respective ones of said continuous ceramic sleeves to align said terminal ends of said mating ones of said termini for transmitting light signals therebetween.

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action dated March 9, 2001. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowance of Claims 7 - 22. Applicant has amended Claims 1, 2, 3 and 7. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended the specification in the places indicated by the Examiner. Applicant requests withdrawal of the objections to the specification in light of the above amendments.

Claims 1, 2 and 3 were amended to conform use of various terms, such that the terms used would have proper antecedent basis. Applicant respectfully submits that such amendments relate to matters of form, and are not substantive in relation to patentable features of the present invention.

Applicant respectfully traverses rejection of the Claims 1 through 3 the based on the Jennings patent. With Claims 1 through 3 amended to correct the above noted matters of form, Applicant notes some of the combined the features set forth in Claim 1 which are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record. The multichannel connector of the present invention has a first housing with a first connector face, a first insert cap tower and two first tangs. The first insert cap tower and the two first tangs extend forward of the first connector face. Two first insert cap tower cavities are provided in the first insert cap tower, with two termini are disposed in the cavities. Two termini extend from the first connector face. Jennings does not show a first insert cap tower having two insert cap tower cavities in which are disposed two termini, in combination with a first connector face from which two additional termini extend, with the first insert cap tower extending forward of the first connector face. Further, applicant submits that the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest such a combination of features. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-6, including the withdrawal of the objection to Claims 4-6 depending from a rejected base claim.

Claims 7 was amended to correct a misspelling which was kindly pointed out by the Examiner. The amendment made to this claims was not made in regard to patentability, but to correct a typographical error. Applicant requests withdrawal of the objection to Claim 7.

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance. For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of the claims

as amended. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/FBSI-24,564 of HOWISON, CHAUZA, THOMA, HANDLEY & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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